

necessary. Further testing of commercially available equipment showed that flame treatment optimized both capital cost, operating cost and time required to achieve the required critical surface treatment.--

On page 30 lines 17 -27 and page 31 lines 1-18, please delete the paragraph and insert therefore a new paragraph as follows:

--The optimum combination of durability and washability of the labels according to the invention is at least partly due to the permeability of the label for the soaking solution. A sample of the transfer layer of the same type as tested in the water uptake/release test of a thickness of 12.7 µm (microns) was tested for water vapour transmission. A 25 millilitre glass container with a 15.9 millilitre orifice was cleaned with acetone and filled with approximately 10 millilitres of deionized water. The orifice area of the container was heated to approximately 47.8°C (118°F) and a circle segment of the transfer layer was firmly applied using a small piece of silicone rubber as a pressure pad. After the container/label had cooled, the backing film was gently removed. The sample preparation was completed by adding a wax coating (0.001 g across the 1.99 cm² surface) and let air dry. A second glass container of the same dimensions as described above was cleaned thoroughly with acetone and filled with 10 ml of deionized water. The orifice area of the sample was heated as well. This sample was used as the control sample. The completed samples were then weighted various intervals over a 26.6 hour time period. The water vapour transmission rate over the total time of the experiment equated to 568.75 g/m² in a 24 hour time period at 22.2°C at 46% relative humidity. It was found that a "steady state" water vapour transmission rate was not achieved until approximately 28 minutes from time 0. When using the "steady state" data after 28 minutes from time 0, the water vapour transmission rate was found to be about 525 g/m² in 24 hours.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Before claim 1, delete "CLAIMS" and insert therefore --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 25-37 as follows.

- 1 25. Container comprising on at least one surface thereof an ink-only label at least
- 2 consisting of an adhesive layer, an ink-only image layer and optionally a protective layer,